

REMARKS

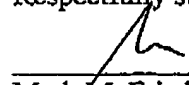
Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-41 are in this case. Claims 1-3, 14-21, 23-25, 34 and 37 have been rejected under § 102(b). Claims 4-13, 22, 26-33, 35-36, and 38-41 have been objected to. Independent claims 1, 24 and 37 have been canceled. Dependent claims 2-3, 14-21, 23, 25, and 34 have been canceled. Dependent claims 4, 22, 26, 35-36 and 38 have been amended to independent form.

Claims 4, 22, 26, 35-36 and 38 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, and are thus allowable, as indicated by the Examiner. Dependent claims 5-13, 27-33 and 39-41 each depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the above-mentioned rewritten independent claims, and thus, it is respectfully submitted, are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 4, 22, 26, 35-36 and 38, and hence dependent claims 5-13, 27-33 and 39-41 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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